

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OC-01 CCO-00 AEC-05 H-01 IO-04

OIC-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 /074 W

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R 221855Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4517

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFA

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 5862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS DEFENSE PLAN

MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER DATED OCTOBER 21 FROM THE  
NETHERLANDS PERMREP (HARTOGH) TO SYG LUNS AND COPIES TO GON ENGLISH  
TRANSLATION OF THE NETHERLANDS DEFENSE WHITE PAPER. MISSION  
IS POUCHING COPIES OF WHITE PAPER TO STATE (EUR/RPM)(REG  
#1360919) AND DEFENSE ISA (REG #4611). FOLLOWING IS TEXT  
OF HARTOGH LETTER.

BEGIN TEXT:

IN THE COURSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS IN THE  
DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE  
PLAN I PROMISED TO PROVIDE YOU ANY MY COLLEAGUES WITH  
CONFIDENTIAL

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AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE  
WHITE PAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS TRANSLATION  
HAS, UNFORTUNATELY, REQUIRED CONSIDERABLY MORE TIME  
THAN ORIGINALLY FORESEEN, BUT I NOW HAVE PLEASURE TO

PRESENT ENCLOSED A COPY THEREOF.

AS YOU PROBABLY ARE AWARE FROM PRESS REPORTS, THE WHITE PAPER HAS RECENTLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE NETHERLANDS PARLIAMENT. I FEEL YOU MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO BE INFORMED AS THE THE EFFECTS OF THE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE PLAN, IN PARTICULAR AS FAR AS THESE WERE RELATED TO THE NETHERLANDS CONTRIBUTION TO NATO AND TO THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH THE DPC HAS EXPRESSED SPECIAL CONCERN.

MBFR.

ALTHOUGH THE WHITE PAPER STARTS FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE ACHIEVED RESULTS AT THE TIME THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEFENCE PLAN WILL START, MINISTER VREDELING HAS CLEARLY STATED IN PARLIAMENT THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WILL CONFORM WITH AGREED NATO MBFR POLICY AS REGARDS UNILATERAL FORCE REDUCTIONS. IN THAT CONNECTION HE DECLARED EXPLICITLY THAT THE PEACETIME STRENGTH OF THE ARMY WILL NOT BE REDUCED PENDING THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, THUS MAINTAINING THE CURRENT NUMBER OF MEN IN UNIFORM. THE EXTRA FUNDS NECESSARY TO FINANCE THIS COMMITMENT WILL BE REQUESTED IN AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION BILL TO BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT IN THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IT WILL TOTAL SOME 46 MILLION GULDERS.  
REDUCTION OF CONSCRIPT SERVICE TIME

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING AN ADJUSTMENT HAS HAD TO BE MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE PLANNED REDUCTIONS IN CONSCRIPT SERVICE TIME. INSTEAD OF THE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED REDUCTION OF FOUR MONTHS, THE REDUCTION WILL, FOR THE TIME BEING, BE LIMITED TO TWO MONTHS. STARTING WITH THE SECOND GROUP OF CONSCRIPTS TO BE CALLED UP IN 1976 (SPRING) CONSCRIPT SERVICE TIME WILL BE REDUCED FROM 16 TO 14 MONTHS. TO BE IN LINE WITH THE ACCEPTED MBFR POLICY AS CONFIDENTIAL

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OUTLINED BEFORE, A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXTRA CONSCRIPTS WILL BE CALLED UP TO MAINTAIN PEACE-TIME STRENGTH.

FURTHER REDUCTIONS WILL ONLY BE DECIDED UPON IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS THE FIRM INTENTION OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT, AS LONG AS MBFR REDUCTIONS CAN NOT BE AGREED UPON, THE ARMY WILL NOT FURTHER SHORTEN THE TIME OF SERVICE FOR ITS CONSCRIPTS.

WITHDRAWAL OF HAWK BATTERIES

IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY STATEMENT IN THE DPC MEETING OF JULY 5TH 1974 AND IN CONSONANCE WITH THE WILINGNESS EXPRESSED BY THE NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER IN

HIS LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO FURTHER STUDY  
THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF SOME HAWK BATTERIES, THE NE-  
THERLANDS AUTHORITIES HAVE STUDIED THE COMPROMISE PROPO-  
SAL PRESENTED BY SACEUR (MCM-69-74 DATED 30-9-1974). THEY  
HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT THE MAIN  
PART OF SACEURS PROPOSAL, WITHDRAWING 3 INSTEAD OF 5 HAWK  
BATTERIES, AND ARE PREPARED TO ADAPT THE OTIGNAL PLAN  
ACCORDINGLY. EXTRA FUNDS OF ABOUT 40 MILLION GULDERS FOR  
MEDIUM HIGH AIR DEFENCE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NE-  
THERLANDS DEFENCE EFFORT WILL OF COURSE BE PROVIDED IN THE  
ALREADY ON GOING DEFENCE REVIEW PROCEDURE.

I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND THE  
ENCLOSURE TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEFENCE  
PLANNING COMMITTEE AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY  
COMMITTEE. END TEXT.  
MCAULIFFE.

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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**To:** STATE  
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USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR  
USLOSACLANT  
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